IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 12, 15-18, 20 and 21 as follows:

1. (Amended) A composition, comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium:

(1) N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol; and

(2) hydroquinone or a hydroquinone compound which has depigmenting or lightening activity.

4. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

5. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

6. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of 0.01 to 5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

7. (Amended) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of 0.5 to 2.5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

9. (Amended) The composition of Claim 8, wherein said vesicles are dispersed in an aqueous or oily phase comprising said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound.

10. (Amended) The composition of Claim 8, wherein said hydroquinone or

hydroquinone compound is encapsulated in said vesicles.

12. (Amended) A method for depigmenting and/or lightening the skin, body hair, or head hair, comprising applying to the skin, body hair and/or head hair, a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium:

(1) N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol; and

(2) hydroquinone or a hydroquinone compound which has depigmenting or lightening activity.

15. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in said composition in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

17. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in an amount of 0.01 to 5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

18. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said N-cholesteryloxycarbonyl-4-para-aminophenol is present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 2.5 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition, and said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is present in said composition in an amount of 0.5 to 1 % by weight, relative to the total weight of said composition.

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said vesicles are dispersed in an

aqueous or oily phase containing hydroquinone or a hydroquinone compound.

21. (Amended) The composition of Claim 19, wherein said hydroquinone or hydroquinone compound is encapsulated in said vesicles.--

Please add new Claim 23 as follows:

--23. (Newly Added) The composition of Claim 1, wherein said hydroquinone compound having depigmenting or lightening activity is a member selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dihydroxyphenyl propionic acid, the ethyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxyphenyl propionic acid; the lauryl ester of 2,5-dihydroxyphenylpropionic acid; methyl 2,5-dihydroxy-3,4-dimethylphenyl acetate; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenyl acetic acid; alkyl esters of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenyl acetic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenyl propionic acid; ethyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-phenylpropionic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylbenzoic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylbenzoic acid; ethyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylbenzoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-ethylbenzoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-ethoxybenzoic acid; 3-(2,5-dihydroxy-4'-methylphenyl)-1-N-(ω-carboxydecyl)propylamide; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenylbutanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methylphenylhexanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxyphenylacetic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxyphenylacetic acid; 2,5-dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzylamide; methyl 2,5-dihydroxy-3-methoxyphenylacetate; 2,5-dihydroxy-3-methoxyphenylpentadecylic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxy-3-methoxyphenylpentadecylic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenylbutanoic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-dihydroxyphenylbutanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenylbutylamide; 2,5-dihydroxyphenylpentanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenylhexanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenyloctanoic acid; 2,5-dihydroxyphenyldecylic acid; methyl ester of 2,5-